(c) During 1988-89, the actual import by MMTC was about 1.66 lakh tonnes costing about Rs. 38 crores. For the year 1989-90, action has been initiated for import of about 2.8 lakh tonnes of pig iron for foundry and casting units costing about Rs. 90 crores as per the current indicative prices. In addition, MMTC is likely to import 2 lakh tonnes. of basic grade pig iron from USSR, costing about Rs. 45 crores.

(d) The Public Sector Steel Plants have been asked to step up the production of pig iron in the current year to meet any shortage. Manufacture of pig iron has been delicensed. The private Sector is being encouraged to invest in pig iron production.

Allotment of rice to Tamil Nadu

1279. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) the total quantity of rice required by the Tamil Nadu from the Central pool;

(b) whether the requirement of that State is being fully met; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu Go-Ternment has approached the Central Government to permit them to procure rice from the surplus States and also to import rice to meet their immediate reuirement; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM)- (a) and (b) As against its monthly demand of 80,,000 tonnes, Tamil Nadu is at present being allocated 40,000 tonnes of rice per month. Allocations of foodgrains from the central pool are only supplemental to the open market availability and are made on a month to month basis taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the central pool, relative needs of various states, market availability and other related factors.

(c) and (d) The Tamilnadu Government had requested for permission to make open market purchase of 3 lakh tonneg of rice from Andhra Pradesh in April, 1989. They have been permitted to purchase 1.5 lakh tonnes of levy free rice from the open market in Andhra Pradesh. No request from the Tamilnadu government has been received for import of rice.

Requirement of potash

1280. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the requirements of potash in our country;

(b) the requirements met with indigenous production and that being imported, with the names of the countries; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange being spent annually for import of potash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU); (a) The estimated consumption (requirement) of potash in the country during the year 1987-88 and 1988-89 was 15.38 lakh tonnes and 18.97 lakh MT of material (MOP) respectively.

(b) The entire requirement of potassic fertilisers is met by imports as there are no known commercially viable sources of this material in the country. 13.4 lakh tonnes and 16.260 lakh tonnes of potash was imported during 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively. Potash was imported from Canada, France, GDR, Holland, Jordan USSR. W. Germany & Norway during 1987-88 and 1988-89.

(c) The C&F Value of the Potash imported during 1987-88 and 1988-89 was Rs. 180.88 crores and Rs. 298.681 crores respectively.

जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत मजदूरी की अदायगी

1281. श्री शान्ति त्यागी : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अधीन यह निदेश दिया गया है कि किसी भी कार्य पर व्यय की गई राशि का कम से कम 50 प्रतिशत मजूरी के नगद भुगतान पर किया जाना चाहिए ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सत्य है कि ईंटों के ऊंचे मूल्य इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने में कठिनाईयां उत्पन्न करेंगे और ग्राम प्रधानों द्वारा बनायी गयी गांव विकास योजनाओं में रुकावट डालेंगे ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार पंचायतों को निर्माण कार्य के लिए भट्टा मालिकों से सस्ती दरों पर ईंटें उपलब्ध कराने का विचार रखती है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में ग्रामीण विकास विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पुजारी : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) और (ग) गैर-मजदूरी घटक पर 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक खर्च को योजना निधियों के बाहर से पूरा किया जाना है । ईंटों की ऊंची कीमतों के बारे में मामला न तो भारत सरकार के ध्यान में लाया गया है और न ही इसका प्रस्ताव सस्ती दर पर ईंटें सप्लाई करने का है । यह स्थानीय कार्यान्वयन अधिकारियों का उत्तरदायित्व है कि वे यथा संभव अच्छे से अच्छे तरीके से समस्या का समाधान करें जिसमें ईंटों का सीधा निर्माण शामिल है यदि इसकी आवश्यकता महसूस की जाए ।

Decontrolling the import of newsprint

1282. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society had demanded, through a deputation which called on the Prime Minister in the first/second week of June, 1989, to decontrol the import of newsprint and to allow its import under open General Licence, with a view to help the industry to overcome the shortage of this commodity; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the demand made and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Some members of the Indian Newspapers Society informally met the Prime Minister on 7th June, 1989 and mentioned about the newsprint problem. On the basis of the directives given by the Prime Minister, a Group of Secretaries comprising of Secretaries of Finance, Industrial Development, Commerce and Information & Broadcasting was asked to look into the problems relating to newsprint. Based on the outcome of the discussions of the Group i steps have been taken to provide additional foreign exchange required for the import of newsprint and to extend customs duty relief on glazed newsprint to the small and medium newspapers who are entitled to allocations of glared newsprint as per the Newsprint Allocation Policy for 1989-90.

Villages without potable water in Uttar Pradesh

1283. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Uttar Pradesh which are still without potable water facility; and

(b) what is the number of villages in that state which have been pro-